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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Bardelmeier, et al.
Serial No. : 10/080,921
Filed : February 22, 2002
For : PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR THE PARTIAL
THERMOCHEMICAL VACUUM TREATMENT OF
METALLIC WORKPIECES
Art Unit : To be assigned
Examiner : To be assigned

October 31, 2002

Commissioner of Patents
and Trademark
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Eileen Sheffield

Signature

Date

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In advance of prosecution, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-35 without prejudice and add the following new claims:

36. A process for the partial thermochemical vacuum treatment of metallic workpieces, in particular for the carburization and case-hardening of workpieces of case-hardening steel in a carbon-containing atmosphere, wherein surface regions to be treated and

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